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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations**Letter dated 17 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as representative of a sovereign nation, in full exercise of the sovereign equality which is guaranteed to Member States under the Charter of the United Nations, to respond to the charges made in the letter dated 13 July 1998 (A/53/178) which Ambassador **Qin Huasun** of the People's Republic of China addressed to you in response to the letter which Nicaragua and 10 other nations sent on 8 July 1998 to request that the participation of the Republic of China in the United Nations should be included in the agenda of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly.

In his letter, Ambassador **Qin Huasun** refers repeatedly to "Nicaragua and a small number of other countries" and describes their request as "illegal activities".

It should be pointed out that, unlike last year, this time the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China is not threatening us but is singling out Nicaragua and insulting us by describing us as "being used by the Taiwan authorities". In reality, as sovereign and independent States, we have the right to disagree, and we cannot be described as instruments of any other country on those grounds since our request accords with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, in exercise of this sovereign equality which is guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, we do not have to request the authorization of any other State, not even a permanent member of the Security Council.

Nor can our request be termed "illegal", since it is not directed against any State in particular. Our position also accords with what the Permanent Representative of China says in paragraph 4 of his letter: "The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States" which are fully entitled to recognize a legally constituted State and request its representation in the United Nations. Our request is also in conformity with Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, whereby membership is open to sovereign States; the Republic of China derives its sovereignty from the consent of the

* A/53/150.



people and by virtue thereof it exercises jurisdiction over the territory of Taiwan. It should be pointed out that, unlike Hong Kong and Macao, the Republic of China is not a colonial enclave.

Our position is based on the *de jure* principle of universal representation which is the cornerstone of the United Nations; and on the fact that the Republic of China fully meets the requirements of a State.

The representation of the Republic of China would not be a permanent obstacle to reunification. We believe that the problem of peaceful reunification should be resolved through an understanding between the two parties and that this objective will be achieved once the People's Republic of China changes its course of resisting historical trends and becomes a true democracy. Once a democratic system is established in the People's Republic of China, unification will occur *ipso facto*.

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official General Assembly document in relation to item 55 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Enrique **Paguaga Fernández**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
